



# CES Environmental Services, Inc. Site Proposed Removal Action

Harris County  
Houston, Texas

August 2014

## This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- Background Information
- Potential Threats to Public Health and Welfare
- What to Expect
- For More Information

### Background Information

The CES Environmental Services Site ("Site") is a former chemical recycling facility that filed for bankruptcy in 2010. The property is owned by the CES Bankruptcy Estate ("Estate") which is being managed by a Trustee appointed by the Bankruptcy Court. The Trustee's job is to liquidate assets of the Estate for the benefit of the creditors. Liquidating the Estate's assets has been complicated by the illegal and unpermitted activities of former leadership of CES Environmental Services, Inc., There are numerous chemical containers located on-site that have not been actively managed or secured to prevent releases to the environment since August 2010. The Site has recently experienced two incidents of vandalism, which occurred in March and July 2014. These incidents resulted in the spillage of chemicals and waste to the facility property and/or the adjacent residential neighborhood. These spill responses were addressed by the Estate, the City of Houston, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") and the EPA. The Trustee has been and continues to address issues of the Site. Although lacking adequate funding, the Estate has been addressing waste issues on the Site. The EPA and TCEQ will begin the process of addressing the waste issues on the property. At the same time, the Estate will complete its ongoing cleanup actions at the Site, which include the disposal of 1 vacuum box, 1 roll-off box, and waste piles. The Estate's actions for these items are being coordinated with both EPA and TCEQ.

The Site consists of approximately 11 vacuum boxes, 2 roll-off boxes, 12 frac tanks, 2 Tanker Trailers, 20 above ground storage tanks (ASTs), 15 waste water treatment tanks, waste piles, and numerous totes, vats, drums, and smaller

containers.

The Site is located at 4904 Griggs Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas. Other contiguous properties associated with the site are 4900 Griggs Road and 5910 Wayland Street. The Site is surrounded by residential, educational, and commercial properties.

### Potential Threats to Public Health and Welfare

In addition to the numerous chemical containers located on-site, the soil areas of the Site have not been investigated. However, due to historic operation, as well as the recent chemical spills from vandalism, the soil is expected to be contaminated.

The contaminants within the containers include: benzene, cresols, 2,4,6-trichlorophenol, methyl ethyl ketone, 1,2-dichloroethane, and corrosive and ignitable wastes.

The Site fencing has been repaired to remove open access to the facility; however, the fencing will not prevent those intent on criminal mischief from entering to vandalize the facility. Thieves, trespassers, and vandals have contributed to releases from the containers on-site, thereby, creating a risk to public health. Additionally, these individuals have compromised the security fencing by stealing fence panels and undermining the security of the facility.

The EPA, TCEQ, and the City of Houston will work together to eliminate the threat this Site presents to your neighborhood. We need your support to make sure that those that are not supposed to be on the property are kept away by notifying the Houston Police Department. Please be vigilant.

### What to Expect During the Next Month

The EPA anticipates activities beginning on the Site immediately for sampling and evaluating the chemical containers. The EPA expects to initiate cleanup actions upon approval of the Action Memorandum and obtaining chemical information on the containers that will be needed to dispose of these wastes. It is expected that this will occur in late August or ear-

ly September but you will see an almost constant presence on the Site until this action is complete. It is anticipated that this removal cleanup action may last up to six months. CERCLA funds will be utilized for all federal actions on the Site. The response actions anticipated include:

- Removal/disposal of chemicals;
- Removing/disposing of visible chemical spillage to soil and other surfaces

#### **For More Information**

If you would like more information about the CES Environmental Services Removal Action, contact:

#### **Gary Moore, EPA On-Scene Coordinator**

U.S. EPA Region 6

Phone: 214.665.6609 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

[moore.gary@epa.gov](mailto:moore.gary@epa.gov)

#### **Bill Little, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator**

U.S. EPA Region 6

Phone: 214.665.8131 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

[little.bill@epa.gov](mailto:little.bill@epa.gov)

#### **Terry Andrews, TCEQ Project Manager**

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Phone: 713.767.3560

[terry.andrews@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:terry.andrews@tceq.texas.gov)

***All inquiries from the news media should be directed to: EPA Region 6 Press Office  
Phone: 214.665.2200***



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 6  
1445 Ross Ave. (6SF-VQ)  
Dallas, TX 75202